

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: NAPLES: POLITICAL GAMBIT OR EMERGENCY ACCORD?

1. POLITICAL PLOYS AND COUNTERPLOYS ARE PROLIFERATING IN NAPLES
AS THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CRISES MOVE TOWARD THEIR DECISIVE

PAGE 02 RUFRSGG1062 C O N F I D E N T I A L

PHASES. IN NAPLES CITY COUNCIL THE DC "ALTERNATE" OR "LEFTIST"
SLATE WHICH EXERCISES AT LEAST TEMPORARY CONTROL OF DC CITY GROUP,
HAS PROPOSED THAT THE SIX SO-CALLED CONSTITUTIONAL ARC PARTIES
REACH AGREEMENT ON SPECIFICS RELATING TO THE NAPLES EMERGENCY
(ECONOMIC DISTRESS CHARACTERIZED BY UNACCEPTABLY HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT
AND AGGRAVATED SOCIAL MALAISE). AT THE FEBRUARY 18-19 COUNCIL MEET-
ING THE SIX PARTIES VOTED TO WORK TOWARD AN EMERGENCY ACCORD WHICH
WOULD END DC OPPOSITION TO THE PCI-LED NAPLES CITY ADMINISTRATION.

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IMMEDIATE EFFECTS OF THE VOTE WERE WITHDRAWAL OF DEMOCRATIC
PROLETARIAN (PDUP) PARTY SUPPORT FOR THE LEFTIST GIUNTA AND AN
INCREASE IN LOCAL DC INTERNAL DEBATE.

2. THE DC ALTERNATE SLATE STRATEGY INVOLVES SEVERAL CONSIDERATIONS.
THE GROUP ARGUES THAT OPPOSITION TO THE LEFTIST ADMINISTRATION HAS
ACCOMPLISHED NOTHING AND IS NOT WELL UNDERSTOOD BY THE VOTER. ITS
LEADERS CONCLUDE THAT NEAPOLITANS GENERALLY ACCEPT THE THESIS THAT

NAPLES' "EMERGENCY SITUATION" REQUIRES COOPERATION NOT CONTESTATION.
DC REGIONAL LEADER UGO GRIPPO WHO ALSO LEADS "ALTERNATE SLATE"
TOLD CONOFF THAT THE EMERGENCY THESIS DEMANDS A COORDINATED AND
COHERENT DC POLICY VALID AT NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS.
THE ELECTORATE WILL UNDERSTAND NOTHING LESS. THEREFORE, ACCORDING

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TO GRIPPO, THE DC WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO BRING DOWN THE LEFTIST CITY
GOVERNMENT (BY VOTING AGAINST THE BUDGET).
3. IN ADDITION TO ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS THE DC INCREASINGLY CON-
SIDERS ITSELF FROZEN OUT OF THAT PATRONAGE AVAILABLE TO THE CITY.
THE PARTY COULD DEMAND A FAIR SHARE OF SPOILS WERE IT PART OF
THE MAJORITY. "ALTERNATE SLATE" MEMBERS EXPRESS CONCERN OVER THE
SOMEWHAT CHARISMATIC PCI MAYOR MAURIZIO VALENZI WHO IN SPITE OF HIS
INEFFECTUAL ADMINISTRATION COULD YET RECONSTRUCT SOME POPULAR
FOLLOWING IN THE NAPLES TRADITION. MORE SERIOUSLY THE DC FEARS
INCREASING PCI CONTROL OF CITY POWER LEVERS AS DC LOYALISTS IN KEY
BUREAUCRATIC POSITIONS ARE GRADUALLY REPLACED BY PCI MEMBERS. AND
DC LOCAL LEADERS POINT TO THE DILEMMA OF GOI COMMITMENT IN 1978
TO AID NAPLES, AID WHICH IF FORTHCOMING UNDER PRESENT POLITICAL
CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD REDOUND TO PCI BENEFIT. THEREFORE, THE DC
GROUP HOPES TO INDUCE VALENZI TO EVENTUALLY STEP DOWN PURSUANT TO
POLITICAL ACCORD AND THE PCI TO CEDE THE MAYOR'S OFFICE TO A LAY
PARTY FIGURE (PRI OR PSI). THE SIX PARTIES WOULD THEN SUPPORT THE
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GIUNTA.
4. THE MAJOR OBSTACLE TO THIS HAPPY CONCLUSION IS PCI INSISTENCE
THAT THE DC JOIN IT ON THE CITY GIUNTA: AS OF NOW THE DC HAS NO

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INTENTION OF DOING SO. COLANTONIO

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